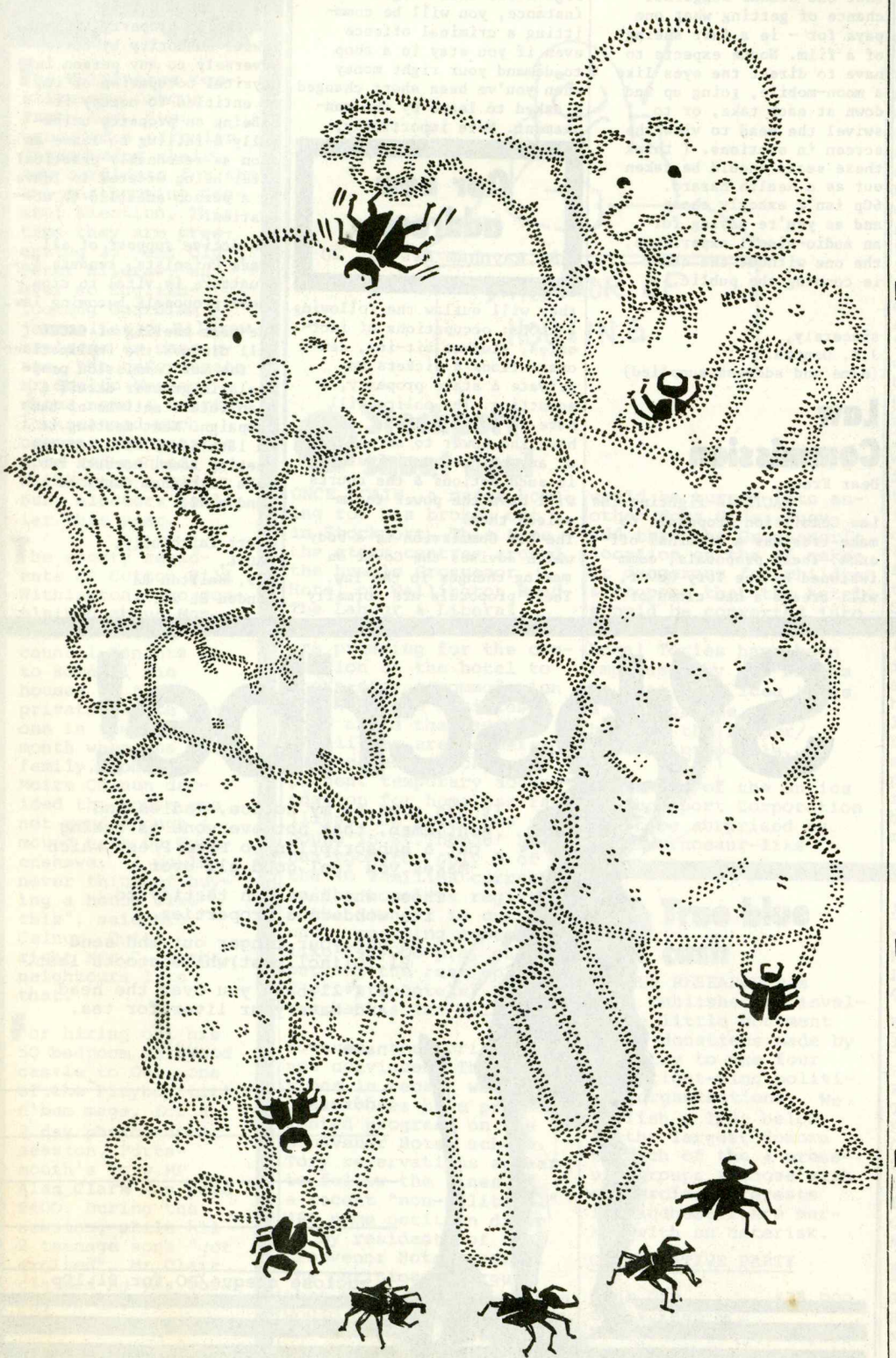
Manchester
FREE PRESS
5p

Issue 27

THE NEWS YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW



INSIDE STORIES

NEWS

Tom Keen at it again.P4

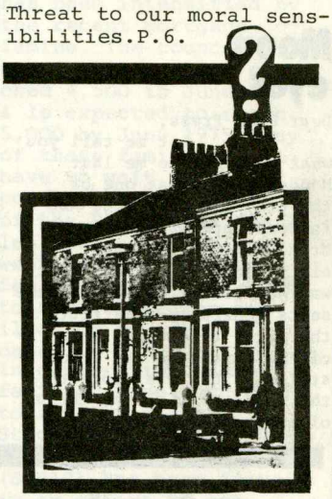
The appalling facts about illiteracy. P.10.

How much do councillors claim for their attendance allowances. P.11.

Welfare rights & wrongs P.12.

Two sniffing tales P.5 & P.11.

Threat to our moral sensibilities.P.6.



HOUSING WAR

Vermin are still alive & well in Moss Side & Hulme - just one of the many complaints by residents.P.8 & 9.

The row about Stockports homeless. P.3.

Pilot scheme for homeless in Manchester & Salford. P.4.

INDUSTRIAL

Lock out at Salford Electrical Instruments over equal pay. P.6.

Hundreds threatened with redundancy at local bakery. P.7.

DAISY'S DIARY

Daisy digs the dirt.P.7.

AND LOTS MORE INSIDE

FROM OUR READERS

Free advice

Dear Free Press,

In view of several items mentioning the need for solicitors' services in Issue 25, you could point out to readers, if you have not already done so, the Free Legal Advice scheme by the Manchester Citizens Advice Bureaux. Anyone can have a free interview, by appointment, with a solicitor at any bureau. Any subsequent interview or any action taken by the solicitor would require a fee paying or Legal Aid, depending on the circumstances.

Yours sincerely,
Sue Wright,
Albion Road,
Fallowfield.

Moon eyes

Dear Free Press,

Let me tell you what happened to me last Monday evening at one of the city cinemas - the ABC in Deansgate managed by a Mr A R Goodlad. I paid sixty pence for a seat that was absolutely useless. These seats generally constitute the first three rows in a cinema, known as the front stalls. They are close to the screen - with the motive of increasing seating capacity - but the result is that one stands buggerall chance of getting what one pays for - ie a fair seeing of a film. Noone expects to have to direct the eyes like a moon-mobile, going up and down at each take, or to swivel the head to view the screen in sections. I think these seats should be taken out as a health hazard. 60p isn't exacyly cheap and as you're paying for an audio-visual experience, the one without the other is conning the public.

sincerely,
J.A. Denton.
(name and address supplied)

Law Commission

Dear Freep,

CACTL is fighting the Law Commission proposals to make trespass a criminal offence. These proposals, commissioned by the Tory Govmt, will create a new class of criminal: the person who fights for their rights. For instance, you will be committing a criminal offence even if you stay in a shop to demand your right money when you've been short changed & asked to leave by the management. More importantly, they will outlaw the following actions: occupations of factories, student sit-ins, demonstrations & pickets on private & state property, & squatting. The police will have to t
have the power to arrest all or any of the participators in such actions & the courts will have the power to imprison them.
The Law Commission is a body which advises the Govmt on making changes in the law. Their proposals are normally accepted. These proposals include the creation of 2 new offences namely:
a) entering property without lawful authority by force adversely to any person in physical occupation of it, or entitled to occupy it
b) Being on property unlawfully & failing to leave as soon as reasonably practical after being ordered to leave by a person entitled to occupation.

The active support of all Trade Unionists, tenants & squatters is vital to stop these proposals becoming law.

The next meeting of CACTL will discuss the implications of the Law Commission proposals in greater detail & plan future actions of the campaign. Next meeting is on 18th Sept. 8p.m. at the Meeting Room, Roebuck Pub, 108a Tottenham Court Rd London W1.

Yours faithfully,
CACTL,
119, Railton Rd
London SE 24.

Our new address

8A, Raynham Ave, M/C 20

PUBLISHED BY MANCHESTER FREE PRESS GROUP, 8a Raynham Avenue, Mchr 20
061-434 1591

PRINTED BY MOSS SIDE PRESS, 21a Princess Road, Manchester 14
061-226 7115

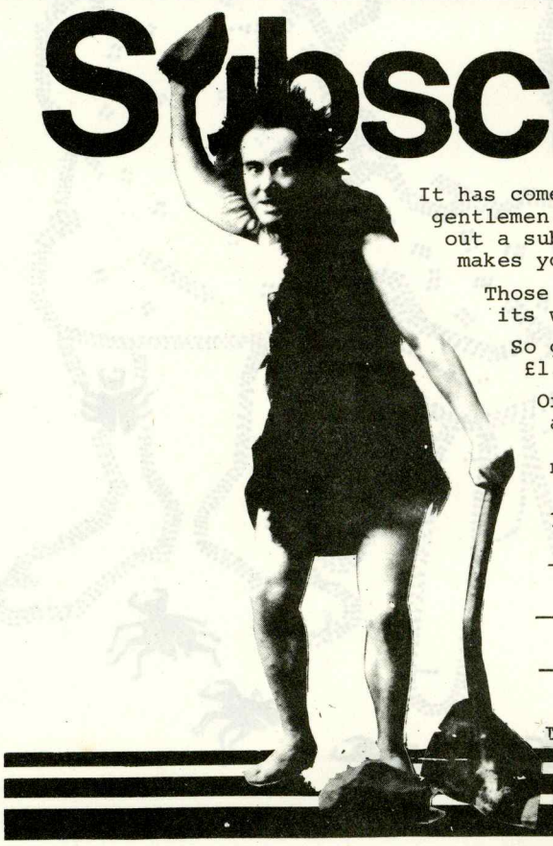
DISTRIBUTED BY US

DESIGN BY SNAIL GRAPHICS

ADS: Classified 2p a word. Free insert in info list. Display and semi-display rates on request.

EDITORIAL GROUP:
Harry Baumgartl
Cynthia Drew
Rachel Brown
Paula Carson
John Doherty
Susan Kirsch
Simon Nail
Percy Smooth

Subscribe!



It has come to my notice, ladies and gentlemen, that not everyone is taking out a subscription to Free Press which makes you feel good all over.

Those who have can testify to its wonderous properties.

So get your finger out and send £1.10(incl.post)while stocks last.

Or I'll bash you over the head and have your liver for tea.

name

address

I enclose cheque/PO for £1.10p

The Withington constituency Labour Party has just produced a circular introducing their new candidate for the the forthcoming General Election. This time they are presenting 33 year old Peter Hildrew, an ever so English-looking Guardian journalist Mr.Hildrew replaces as candidate, the unfortunate Mr.Sholto Moxley, whose name & swarthy lookscaused much comment amongst the more red-necked Withington & Didsbury electors earlier this year.

The snotty residents of Cotton Hill Withington, who complained about Manchester moving council tenants in to some of the houses on their private estate got one in the eye this month when the first family, John and Moira Calnun decided the house was not good enough & moved back to Wythenshawe. "I would never think of buying a house like this", said Mrs. Calnun. Quite right Mrs.C, with neighbours like that.

For hiring out his 50 bedroom Saltwood castle to Oui, one of the Playboy tit' n'bum mags, for a 2 day photographic session, Portsmouth's Tory MP Alan Clark was paid £400. During the session, while his 2 teenage sons "got excited", Mr.Clark claimed he was working on his election address.

nuff said

... ALL THESE PEOPLE DO... BLAH..
...IS TO SIT ON THEIR BACKSIDES...YAWN
... AND IT IS ... BLATHER...
... UP TO THEM.... SPLUTTER...
....TO DO SOMETHING... ERM...
.... OH...
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

Stockport squat deal

ONCE AGAIN a major housing row has broken out in Stockport. This time the storm centres around the humble Grosvenor Hotel on Wellington Road. The Labour & Liberal groups on the Council are pressing for the conversion of the hotel to short-stay accommodation for homeless families. They argue that such facilities are desperately needed. Stockport's present temporary accommodation for homeless families, the notorious house in St.Thomas' Place has room for only 9 of the 40 families currently on the homeless register, & the Council is currently spending something like £45,000 p.a. on putting the rest up in 2 private hotels, the Westbank & the Mile End.

However, the Tories are not convinced. Three times in recent weeks their votes have prevented progress on the Grosvenor Hotel scheme. Tory reservations appear to follow the lines of a recent "non-political" 460 name petition drawn up by residents of the Grosvenor Hotel region. The petitioners argue that the Grosvenor scheme would be the thin end of the wedge, that other schemes would follow, & within 10yrs the district would be turned into another Moss Side. They add that the Grosvenor's location on the A6 makes it dangerous for children & propose that the hotel should be converted into flats for pensioners. Local Tories have been impressed by the wisdom of this last idea &, as a consequence, have blocked the Labour/Liberal proposals.

Followers of the antics of Stockport Corporation won't be surprised by their dinosaur-like reaction to the problem of homelessness. The Borough has an absolutely appalling housing record. In the years of Tory control the Council initiated very little council house building, preferring private developments or Housing Association schemes for which the Council could nominate tenants. At the same time, Stockport's ageing housing stock (26% of the Boroughs 104,000 houses were built before 1900, & a further 30% between 1900 & 1945), meant that major slum clearance schemes were needed. Predictably, slum clearance plus no council house building has led to pressure on council housing which has been intensified by the recent mortgage famine. The council house waiting list reached 4,500 in June 1974 & is expected to reach 5,000 by June 1975. Many of these families will have to wait years for council houses since, of the 830 houses relet last year, only 9% went to waiting list families. The rest went to slum clearance families or to special cases.

In desperation, some families have turned to squatting, & the Stockport Shelter Housing Action Committee (SSHAC) has been formed in an effort to get something done about the housing problem. The local rag, the Stockport Express, has also given some prominence to complaints that the Council is letting houses stand empty whilst people remain homeless.

(Continued on P.5)

True blue cash

LABOUR RESEARCH has just published an invaluable little document about donations made by industry to the four main right-wing political organisations. We publish a list below of the largest donors to each of the 4 pressure groups & those with commercial interests in Manchester are marked with an asterisk.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Rank Org.	£35,000
Guest,Keen & Nettleford	£33,000
Beecham Group	£20,000
Banks/Finance	£64,981*

AIMS OF INDUSTRY

Taylor Woodrow	£ 6,000*
Hambros	£ 5,000
Rank Hovis McD	£ 5,000*
Guest Keen & N.	£ 2,500

BRITISH UNITED INDUSTRIALISTS

Reckitt & Colman	£25,000*
Royal Ins.	£15,000*
Turner & Newall	£15,000*
Rugby Portland Cement	£15,000
Commercial Union	£12,500*
Gen.Accid.Fire	£10,000*
Legal & Gen.Ass.	£10,000*
Guardian Royal	£10,000*
Marks & Spencer	£10,000*

ECONOMIC LEAGUE

Shell Petroleum	£ 6,500*
Barclays Bank	£ 5,000*
Nat.Westminster	£ 4,625*
Rank Hovis McD	£ 4,500*
Midland Bank	£ 4,070*

LANCE well launched

AN interesting five-year pilot scheme to help single homeless people is now operating in the Manchester/Salford and Stockport area. The project is organised by LANCE short for the Lancashire Area of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders Community Enterprises. It is jointly financed by the DHSS and the social services departments of the councils involved in the scheme. The aim is to provide a wide variety of types of accommodation for a large number of homeless people, ranging from alcoholics, the ex-prisoner, through to people working away from home.

Accommodation offered varies from communal houses with strong communal/supportive backing, to bedsits or independent flats. Some of the 11 houses now operated by LANCE (with 70 places) are run by teams of residential workers. Two of the houses do not have a residential warden, but LANCE has a detached team of workers whose job it is to seek out those in need and to offer help to those people living in bedsits and flats. Rooms are also offered by a supported landladies scheme run by Tom Gray, again within the LANCE project. People who need housing are dealt with through a 24-hour referral centre which lies at the heart of the scheme. The Centre, in a decaying ex-trade union office on South Pump Street off Whitworth Street, refers homeless people to the accommodation available.

It also offers general advice, food clothing, and emergency overnight accommodation on the spot if it is desperately needed. About 150 referrals, mainly from the prisons, the probation service, the psychiatric hospitals, or just off the street, are now being dealt with every month. Not all of the people who contact the centre can be found accommodation within the LANCE scheme and many of them finish up dossing down as usual in the Sally Army or Morning Star hostels - or using the night shelter just set up in an old school building in Harkness Street at Ardwick Green.

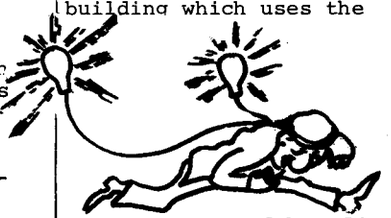
The LANCE project has not been without its problems. One of the houses rented in Parrs Wood Avenue was forced to close down after pressure from local residents and similar problems have been experienced with the Stockport and Droylesden houses. Difficulties have been found in finding landladies for the room scheme. Staff turnover has been high, particularly in sheltered houses and to a lesser extent within the centre itself. There have also been suggestions - which have been reject by Pat Cornwill, leader of the centre- that the sheltered housing units have been taking only the "better class of homeless," leaving those with the worst problems in no better position than before. Watch Freep for further reports on the project.

Eureka Europa

IT LOOKS as if Europa House, a Cheadle Heath office block which has stood empty since completion over a year ago, may have found a tenant at last. Negotiations are taking place between Simon Engineering, whose subsidiary Simonbuild, constructed Europa House, & the North West region of the Central Electricity Generating Board.

But the proposed deal has incensed Moss Side Labour M.P. Mr.Frank Hatton. If CEGB move out of their present Didsbury HQ, Manchester will lose the rateable value of the property & 650 jobs. Mr.Hatton has stated that,"As far as I can see, Simon's built this block as a speculative venture & it has taken a nationalised industry to get it off the hook".

Europa House has been the subject of controversy since its completion At the opening ceremony AUEW members of Simchem, another Simon subsidiary, protested that the building should be used for Simon workers & not rented to outside firms. Squatter's groups in Stockport have claimed that the empty block is an affront in a town with such a massive housing shortage (see page 3), & they have dubbed the building "Stockport's Centre Point". Still, if the Electricity Board does move in,it will be able to save on its electricity bills. Europa House is a self heating building which uses the

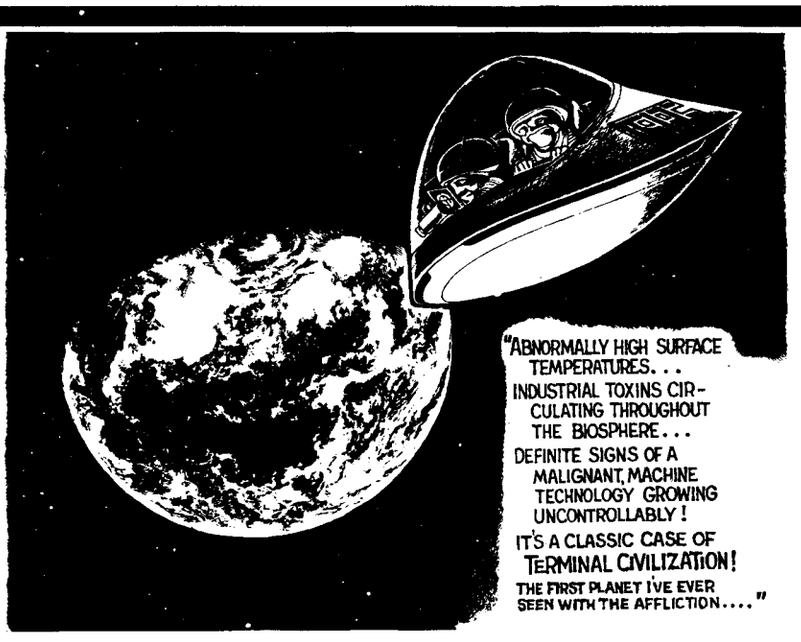


energy generated by office workers, lights etc. to maintain a constant temperature in the offices.

Keen crusades

TOM KEEN, Oldham's free-booting millionaire industrialist & professional anti-communist is back on the warpath. He has recently announced that his campaign for a More Prosperous Britain is to put up between 20 & 25 candidates in the forthcoming General Election. CMPB is devoted to stopping strikes & to persuading electors to vote Conservative or Liberal. Past attempts to stop the Reds have led the crusading Mr.Keen to support a motley selection of organisations. At one time or another he has offered to help the Liberal Party, Dick Taverne's ludicrous Campaign for Social Democracy, & Britain's biggest fascist grouping, the National Front. Readers of Freep 22 already know something of Mr.Keen's unorthodox approach to business matters. In that issue we reported on Tom's excursion, equiped with 2 iron bar toting heavies, to a housing estate he owned in Reading. A family living in one of the houses was forced to leave when the iron bars were used to smash up their home. Mr.Keen wanted to sell the estate which he had bought for £3,000 in 1947, to developers for £1 million.

It is pleasing to know that the profits from Mr.Keen's business ventures are now keeping Britain safe from the communist menace.


"ABNORMALLY HIGH SURFACE TEMPERATURES...
INDUSTRIAL TOXINS CIRCULATING THROUGHOUT THE BIOSPHERE...
DEFINITE SIGNS OF A MALIGNANT, MACHINE TECHNOLOGY GROWING UNCONTROLLABLY!
IT'S A CLASSIC CASE OF TERMINAL CIVILIZATION!
THE FIRST PLANET I'VE EVER SEEN WITH THE AFFLICTION...."

Sniff sniff sniff

MANCHESTER University Press, publishers for the highbrow market, like to take their time and get things right. A superb example of their mastery of the publisher's art is their long awaited "Revolt to Revolution." This was first commissioned from the main contributors - which included the portly Military Studies guru Major Michael Elliot-Bateman way back in 1971.

Last month MUP were satisfield that their product was at last ready. The book, exquisitely printed and bound, - though at £7.50 hardly likely to rocket into the top ten sellers list- was finally declared right for publication. In preparation for the great day copies were sent out for review, and one of the first batches was packed up for the USA However, before celebrations had gone too far, it was remembered that MUP's legal sleuths had not sniffed the text for libel. Belatedly, the ferrets were called in and - you've guessed it - were horrified to discover a possible smelly libel in one of the peices. Panic followed.

The review copies were hastily recalled and the American shipment recovered from the docks, presumably for an extensive scissors and paste job in the master printer's basement. As befits a volume of such depth and scholarship, the book has been dedicated to, amongst others, that well-known academic and bowls player Noel Burrows, landlord of the Red Lion pub in Withington and purveyor in times past of many a foaming pint of Marston's to the spry Major Elliot-Bateman.

Sorry

In the article about women's illnesses in the last issue, we referred to the vacuum suction contraception-cum-abortion technique and said the device was called a speculum. It is of course, called a canula - the speculum is used for self-help inspection of the cervix. The mistake was not the author's.

It was made in haste by the male typist.

Squat deal

(Cont. from Page 3)

At first the Council & its senior officials were indignant that their fine housing record should be criticised. Squatters, they squealed, were merely trying to sneak to the top of the housing list & one young couple who moved into an unfit house in Ward St. immediately felt the full weight of the Council's disapproval. Brian & Linda Hill returned 'home' one day to find the house bricked up, the Council having obtained a High Court injunction for possession.

unfit

They then moved into another unfit house in Torkington St & once again the Council obtained a possession order from Mr.Justice Hollings at M/C Crown Court. An article in the Stockport Express complaining about empty property in the town was dismissed as 'deceptive & misleading; it contained elementary errors of fact & mischievious innuendo'.

But complacency has been shattered by a recent extraordinary letter to the Stockport Express signed by 40 of the social workers employed by the Metropolitan Borough. The letter accuses the Corporation of failing to take action to deal with the housing problem.

scorn

It also pours scorn on the idea that squatters move up the housing list unfairly & claims that social workers aren't able to help those in need because of the lack of facilities available.

Stockport's Director of Housing, Mr.J.B.Jay replied with characteristic aplomb: "These people expect to continue in life as they did at University by sitting on their backsides & protesting. All their lives they have seen things in terms of 'them & us'. What they should realise is that they are now one of 'them' & it is up to them to do something".

However, since this outburst in July, the Council seems to have changed its tactics. A conciliatory approach has been adopted. Mr. & Mrs.Hill have been left alone in Torkington St. & according to Mr.Hill's father, the Council is now being 'very co-operative'. Also, Mr.Jay has announced that the Council is considering bringing back into use as short-life accommodation, 40 houses which have been bricked up, & the Corporation is restarting council house building. Plans have been announced for 400 new council houses at Bradshaw Hall, & Stockport has received a timely warning from the Government that loan sanctions for house building will be with held unless they start on council housing in preference to Housing Association schemes.

agreement

Most importantly, it also looks as if Stockport may also be the first local authority in the north to accept a legal squatting agreement following talks with SSHAC. The agreement has been drawn up by the chief officers and will be recommended to the housing committee on August 27. Based on similar agreements prepared by the Family Squatting Advisory Service in several London boroughs, it will allow homeless people to live in houses which are not up to standard for normal lettings.

These could include houses condemned as unfit or taken over by the council under a blight notice. It does not cover privately-owned houses. The accommodation will only be temporary and tenants will not be allowed to jump the housing list - currently standing at about 5,000 - when the houses are eventually demolished. If the agreement is passed it could lead other authorities in the North West to follow suit. And this would only be taking up the advice by the Department of the Environment in February which said that housing authorities should work with "reliable squatters organisations."

Beware school girls

AUGUST HAS been a bad month for those concerned with protecting the innocence of local school children. Planning decisions have exposed literally thousands of youngsters to grave moral risks.
To the bitter disappointment of Councillor Tom Murphy, Manchester Planning Committee has given the Riverside Motor Hotel, Didsbury, permission to open a casino. The Riverside is very close to The Hollies, a rather posh girl's school of which Tom Murphy is a governor. The Councillor has warned that "Gambling is not confined to the evenings and our girls could be exposed to undesirable types."

An equally shocking decision has also been made in Chester. Magistrates there have granted a licence to a betting shop which, in the view of Kenneth Munden, headmaster of the Queens Park High School, Handbridge, Chester, will be a'moral hazard' to the 1,400 twelve to eighteen year olds who will pass the shop daily. Mr Munden's objection was echoed by leaders of the United Reformed Church of Handbridge who have claimed that "the creation of another evil practice would be wrong because of the large amount of young people who abound in the area."

Such decisions contrast badly with Manchester' s closure of a Gentlemen's Public Convenience in the park next to the Central High School for Girls. The Convenience was a haven for Manchester's brigade of "flashers". In the years

since the closure there has been a remarkable drop in the number of flashing incidents involving girls from the school.

Some are more equal than others

SALFORD ELECTRICAL Instruments has run into trouble again. Last year they were faced with an equal pay strike by the clerical workers' union, APEX (see Freep 17). They came out for 11 weeks at S.E.I's two factories in Eccles & Heywood, before the dispute was resolved in 1973. Then there was a 6 week strike by 70 skilled men at the Heywood plant earlier this year. Now it's the female engineers' turn - on the issue of equal pay again.

Their dispute is already more than a year old. After 6 abortive works conferences with the management, matters have finally come to the boil at the Heywood plant.

Lock out

In support of their claim, the women started a ban on piecework on 29th July. The management soon sent personal letters out, informing them that unless they reverted to the piecework system, they would be clocked off. In other words, they would be locked out. These letters were backed up by personal approaches by the supervisors. The managing director, Mr-Brian White, also threatened to close the factory. It was on the 16th August, that one of the women had her time card clocked off by a member of the management.
A minor managerial miscalculation.

400 angry women walked out in protest.

Claim

The claim is, essentially, over the consolidated time rate (ie. the basic national rate), bonus & piecework rates. The women in dispute are all at least semi-skilled workers & indeed some of them are, in the union's opinion, highly skilled. But their rates equate only to the male labourers. The current rates are: £18.00 for women & £22.50 for semi-skilled men. Even when two increases become payable in November & March, the differential will be maintained. The semi-skilled men will be on £28.75 & the women on £24.50. The management claims that the women do lighter work, but the women don't agree.

The women also want semi-skilled piecework rates. At the moment, they are rated at a lower figure than the men.

Robbery

In addition, the piecework ban has caused another bone of contention. The women expected to lose their bonus, but they certainly did not expect to lose their Phase 2 & 3 payments. Whilst they were operating the ban, they only got their £18.00 basic plus £1.60 threshhold payment. In the words of an A.U.E.W. official,"It was sheer robbery".

Salford Electrical Instruments is part of the giant GEC-AEI combine, which is more renowned for redundancies than generosity to its employees.

An American firm just down the road from the Heywood plant, Leesona, pays about £10.00 per week more than SEI, to its semi-skilled female workers.

Action

The 400 women at SEI Heywood, picketed the firm for about 2 weeks & then the Dept. of Employment stepped in by offering the services of its conciliation office. The union is willing to take this offer up but it's not yet known whether the management is.

In the meantime, picketing continues. The Eccles factory has been asked to support the dispute, since the women there are working under exectly the same conditions & docks all over the country are being called on to black GEC goods.

A financial appeal to help the women in dispute is also being launched, so anyone wishing to help them, send donations to the A.U.E.W., 24 Manchester Road, Bury.

WHERE'S THE BREAD IN BREAD?

THE BAKING industry isn't too hot at the moment. While the latest bread advert 'Bread is Best' comes under fire from 2 Manchester scientists as misleading & unethical, a Stretford bakery is threatened with massive redundancies.

If the Mothers' Pride bakery, W.J.Brookes, which is owned by Rank Hovis McDougall, closes down- about 650 employees will be out of a job. Some 800 people work at the bakery but only 150 of them have so far been offered alternative employment.

OTHER RHM COMPANIES IN THE MANCHESTER AREA

James Almond & Sons Ltd
Baughan's Foods Ltd
Beatties Biscuits Ltd
Birkett & Bostock Ltd
W.J.Brookes & Sons Ltd
Manor Bakeries Ltd
W.Moore & Son Ltd
RHM Bakeries Ltd
RHM Flour Mills Ltd
RHM Foods Ltd
Silvio's Ltd
Hovis Ltd
Dairy Produce Packers

Rank Hovis McDougall is the largest manufacturer & distributor of flour in Europe. The group makes, among other things Mothers Pride, Nimble, Hovis, Bisto, Energen, Cerebos Sifta & Saxa salt, Scotts porridge oats, Paxo, McD & Be-ro flour, Atora suet etc, etc, etc.
The management claims that the bakery is running at a loss equivalent to 1p per loaf. If that's the case then the reason isn't hard to find. The company hasn't bothered to invest in any new equipment for at least 16 years & much of the equipment is 25 years old. Nor can the company be bothered to repair the leaking roof which holds up production every time there is a heavy rainfall. And that is despite the fact that RHM has received a £5 million handout from the taxpayer over the last 3 years.
RHM, with a pre-tax profit of 27.9 million & 59,000 employees in the UK, was one of the 20 big companies that came under Wedgewood Benn's scrutiny recently because "...half the private sector...do not invest enough..., despitelarge subsidies from the taxpayer".

Right-wing

Last year, RHM was one of the largest donors to two right wing organisations, the Economic League & Aims of Industry. They gave the League £4,500 & Aims £5,000.

Among the directors of RHM are Lord Rootes of Rootes Motors fame, and Lord Shawcross who is also a director of: Shell Transport & Trading Co, EMI, Times Newspapers & Hawker Siddley.

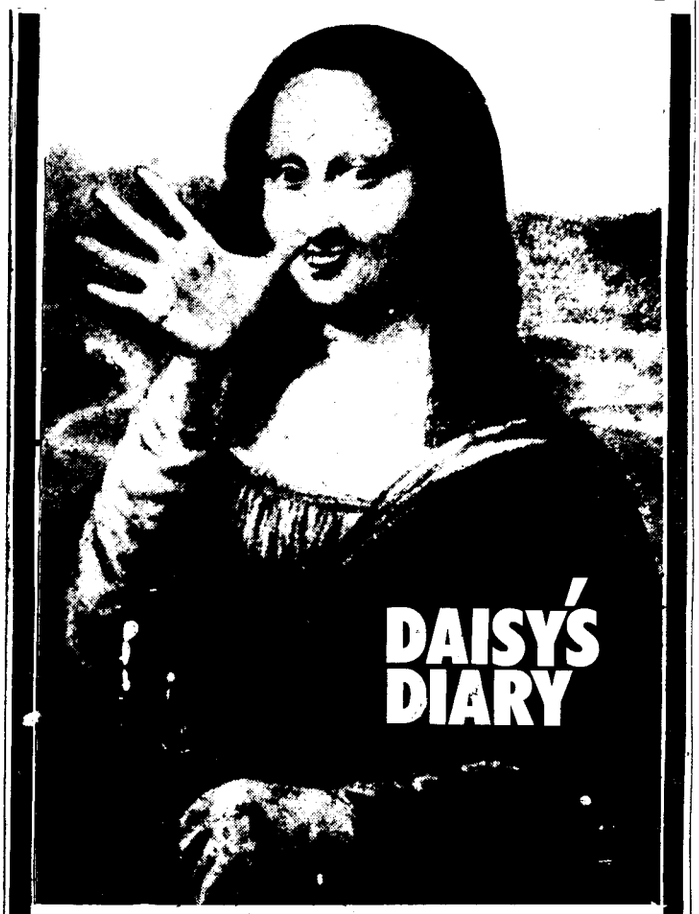
The Stretford bakery is due to close on the 19th October 1974. Since the workers were told of the proposed closure, they have been taking industrial action which includes stopping the movement of any machinery out of the company.

W.J.Brookes isn't the only one likely to go. Four more bakeries are threatened with closure but these are owned by the other baking giants

Campaign

A campaign against the closure is being waged by the 4 unions involved. A meeting was held on 28th August to which local M.P's were invited. Two M.P.'s, Ken Marks & Frank Hatton, have pledged their support for the bid to save the bakery.

A march & a rally at Houldsworth Hall, Deansgate, is planned for 14th September & M.P's, trade unionists & councillors are expected to turn out.



Residents of the Manchester airport region may be somewhat mollified by the news that even if their eardrums are being shattered, it's at least British noise that is doing the worst damage. The recent report from the Consumer Association shows that the worst offenders at Ringway are, in increasing order of noisiness,the BAC One-Eleven, the Hawker-Siddeley Trident & the VC-10. These fine British aircraft are powered respectively by one, two & three of the fine,"whispering" Rolls Royce Spey engine It's good to know that Britain is still best at something.

What an amazing cock-up. There's a drug called STP, a strong hallucinogenic similar to LSD, which isn't on the list of prohibited drugs. It's entirely legal to possess it, & even sell it. Mind you, a pusher was convicted of selling it last week because he thought it was LSD. It's all in the mind you know. It's already banned in USA & by the World Health Org., so a rather nasty change in the law is expected.

Salford "Stuff the tenants" Council has done it again. No sonner had the Lower Broughton Action Group given notice of seven county court actions against the council to get repairs done, than three of the tenants were rehoused. By the time the others get to court it is likely that the rest will have conveniently found other houses. Which leaves several hundred more people still living in the rotten slum. Readers of Freep will recall that when 88 of them summonsed the council to the magistrates court under the Public Health Act, most of the cases were adjourned when the council objected on a point of law. That will be decided in the High Court probably in September. In the meantime Salford says that it is trying to find green belt land for housing, which isn't much comfort to the 8,000 people on the waiting list and 13,000 households within existing and proposed CPOs. Up to April this year 140 houses were built.

HOME IS WHAT

THE PEOPLE living in Moss Side District Centre have been complaining for months about the bugs and vermin which have spread like an epidemic through the blocks of flats. But it wasn't until the direct works maintenance men blacked the centre that the council started a systematic deinfestation programme. This sudden concern by the town hall has an all-too-familiar ring. Remember Operation Clean-up? That was sparked off in the crescents of Hulme V during the last election when the politicians acquired an equally sudden concern for the conditions on the estate

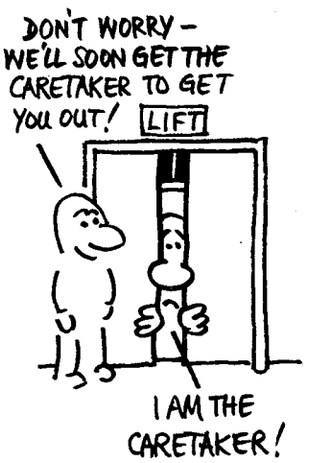
And ask any tenant what happens when the Lord Mayor or a big wig from London comes round on an official visit :direct works drop everything to do a quick brush-up job and the parks men come round to stick in a few shrubs. Hey Presto, you have a nice, neat estate. The reality is rather different. A survey carried out by members of Manchester University community action group - at the request of the tenants in Moss Side - found that 87% of people in the block of flats wanted to move because of a whole range of unsatisfactory conditions. The survey - we go into the details below - unearthed some alarming facts.

UNITED

Armed with this, the tenants are hoping that at last they will get some long-term solutions to their problems. At the same time they have linked up with members of the Hulme Tenants' Society, who have suffered the same sort of problems for even longer, to show a united front to the council officials The first real sign of progress was made at a meeting between both groups of tenants and officials at the town hall on July 31. The Hulme tenants called the meeting originally and they asked to see the directors of housing, health and direct works- Messrs Goodhead, Foskett and Wilson. None of them could make it and in the end the tenants met a group of six officials- the most senior being Ray Gridley, the new housing deputy director. The officials were told of six problems needing urgent attention in Hulme -and on some of them they promised action

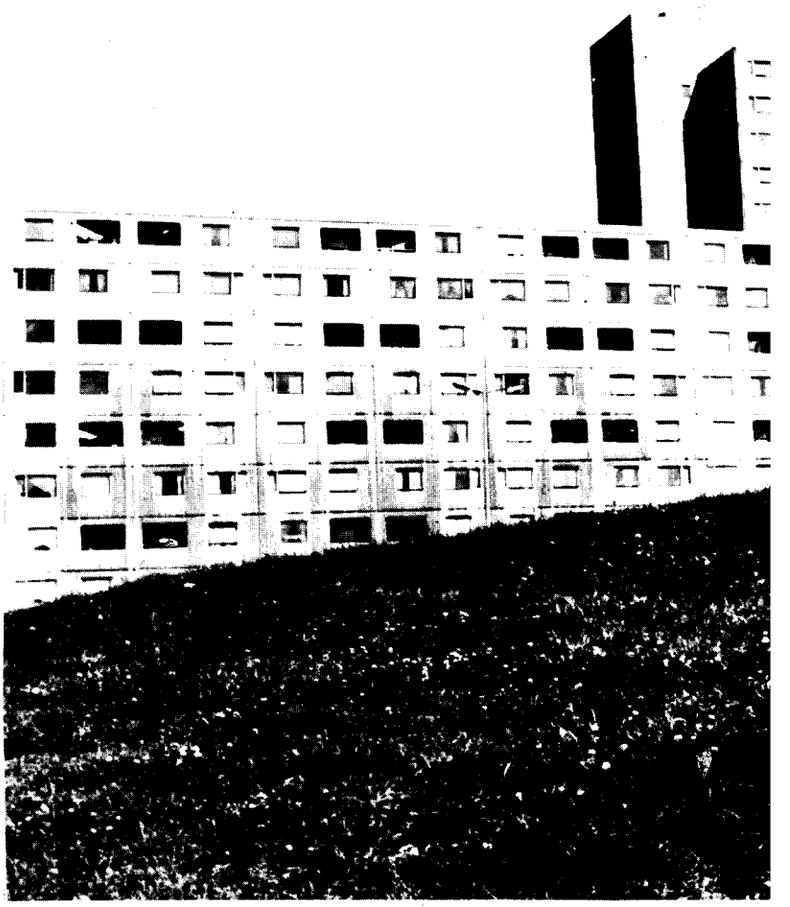
LIFTS

Bad maintenance means that lifts are often out of action for days on end - and particularly at weekends. Many people aren't aware of the emergency phone number to ring if lifts break down - sometimes with people stuck in them. Gridley promised that a placard clearly showing phone number will be put in caretakers' windows.



CARETAKERS

Tenants complained that people didn't know exactly what the caretakers were responsible for; or which one was on duty at nights and over the weekends. A duty rota was not always put up in their windows. Gridley promised that an information sheet would be sent out to everyone setting out the details of caretakers' duties and what to do in an emergency.



THE FIVE MAIN COMPLAINTS IN MOSS SI

HOUSEHOLDS WHO HAVE HAD A MEMBER TRAPPED IN LIFTS

Houses	0
Ground floor	2
First	39
Second	27
Third	65
Fourth floor	65

COMMON REPAIRS NEEDED

	Blocks	Houses
Cupboards	30	38
Flooding	28	31
Heating	22	0
Windows	21	8
Doors	20	8
Floors	13	0
Cracks	13	8

Only 14% said that they didn't need any repairs.3 out of ten said they had problems with warped cupboard doors, and one in 5 said they couldn't turn the heating off in the summer. Many of the repairs needed fixing ever since the buildings were occupied.

The council had clearly accepted the buildings from the contractors in a state of disrepair. Some tenants had waited two years for simple jobs to be done. The average wait was 1 year 7 months.

VENTILATION PROBLEMS

Houses	15
Ground floor	86
First	25
Second	14
Third	22
Fourth floor	50

THEY MAKE IT

MAINTENANCE

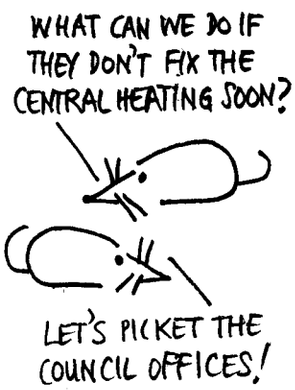
Apart from the lifts, long delays are experienced before routine

repair jobs are done by the direct works department. Part of the problem is lack of manpower: there are only two plumbers to cope with all the work in Hulme V and Moss Side Centre. In cases of flooding, tenants havn't been told where the stop-cock is situated. Gridley promised another information sheet on this particular item.

VERMIN

The council now appear to appreciate that this is an urgent problem. Up to now treatment against mice has been a total failure. The poison didn't work and as one flat was deinfested, the mice would move along the central heating ducts to the next one. The health department reckon they have found a new, effective poison and have started to treat each block as a whole.

And they'd better move fast: the first flat in Charles Barry Crescent got mice about six weeks ago. Block treatment



against beetles and bugs is also going ahead in Moss Side, by sealing off each flat.

GARAGES

Many of the garages are unused and have been vandalised, both in Moss Side and Hulme (just as many others have been all over Manchester). Gridley made two promises In Hulme he said the free-standing garages would be pulled down and those which weren't being used below the crescents would be opened up as through-ways.

In Moss Side he said that consideration would be given to converting the garages into extensions of the ground floor flats.

FIGHTING

The tenants had arrived at the meeting in a fighting mood - some with years of mounting frustration over the council's inaction. They left far from satisfied but with the impression that things were about to move their way for once. But they have yet to see the results of the new disinfestation programme and the promised reorganisation of the caretaker system which is being tried out as a pilot scheme in Beswick.

Although the problems in Moss Side were touched on at that meeting it was not until two weeks later that the community action survey was finished on the district centre.

164 people (53%) were interviewed from the medium-rise Gretney Walk, Lingbeck Crescent blocks, high-rise Medlock Court and the houses in Bankwell Close, St Mary's Street and Halston Close. The ground-floor level of Gretney is called Gradwell Walk. The survey revealed a deep and widespread disatisfaction with living conditions in the centre. In some cases tenants have been driven to despair. But, as the survey points out, they are trapped in their environment, even though the majority would like to get out. The survey has been sent off to three local councillors, Government departments, housing committee chairman Allan Roberts and housing director Goodhead, as well as Frank Hatton the Moss Side MP. The council is clearly getting extremely embarassed about the increasingly adverse reports coming out of its grandiose housing developments. They were built ostensibly as showpiece answers to the city's vast slum problems. But they were built on the cheap and now the people are having to pay for it. As usual. To put everything right in Moss Side and Hulme would cost an extraordinary amount of cash and the council simply havn't got it. But if they leave the area to fester, they may well be faced in the not too distant future with the only viable alternative being demolition.

SS SIDE

All figures in percentages

The high percentage of people on the ground floor who are disatisfied with ventilation is caused by the fact that the garages prevent a through-flow of air.

INCIDENCE OF PEST INFESTATION

	Bugs	Beetles	Mice
Gradwell	44	65	93
Lingbeck Block 18	39	52	87
Lingbeck Block 52	45	16	81
Gretney	34	9	88
Houses	53	92	100
TOTAL	41	32	89

The majority of bug infestations shown here have been reported to the council and in most cases have been treated. However, treatment has been peice-meal and the bugs have invariably returned.

OTHER DISLIKES

	Blocks	Houses
Refuse	23	31
Everything	21	0
Smell from drains	17	0
Dogs	9	46
Lack of play areas	13	0
Lifts	13	0
No privacy	1	77
Dangers for kids	10	23
People throwing things from above	12	69

People were asked to list what other things they disliked. Some gave more than one answer.

NOW READ THIS

A RECENT report estimated that in Britain 2 million adults (6% of the population) can't read or write as well as an average nine year old child. Manchester's share of this horrifying total has been guessed at about 16,000 adults. In this region only small-scale attempts have been made to tackle the problem. Manchester, Salford and Stockport all run courses in basic English skills in some of their evenings centres. These courses are extremely valuable, but for a variety of reasons they fail to attract more than a tiny fraction of those people with reading and writing difficulties.

One reason for this could be the lack of information about the courses, which in any case are generally advertised in written form. More importantly, people can be put off by the embarrassment of enrolling for a course and admitting their ignorance to a large audience. It takes a very self-confident person to walk into a strange, forbidding building and calmly announce to the person at the desk: "Excuse me, I'm illiterate. Can you tell me where I enrol. Can you help me to fill in the forms." etc.

PROJECT

To some extent these difficulties are overcome by another small-scale scheme operating in the area. This is the Literacy Project, run by the Manchester Council for Voluntary Service from their new plush HQ at the Gaddum Centre, 274 Deansgate. This scheme, run by two (soon to be three) part-time organisers on a shoe-string budget, is currently helping about 360 adult illiterates to learn to read and write. Each student is taught in his or her own house by their own tutor who works on an expenses only basis. Tutors are not necessarily English specialists and are given a basic training on a short course, the next of which will be run in September.

URGE

When Freep talked to Mrs Bower, one of the organisers of the project she told us that the students tended to be highly motivated and that frequently they had been given the impetus to learn by a desire to get a better job, or by an urge to help their school-age children.

Talks fail on
calls
Large Danish Furniture Warehouse
ASA
Power Restored
Positively
Goitre, Enlarg
Catarrh of the Throa
of Voice, Hoarseness and
all Diseases of the Throat.
A pleasant, soothing application, worn at night, performing its work while the patient sleeps. Sent by mail for One Dollar. Testimonials and a treatise on "The Throat and Its Ailments," free to all sending 2c. stamp for postage.
Mention this paper. The Physicians' Remedy Co., Cincinnati, O.

The expansion of the scheme is hampered by a shortage of voluntary tutors, particularly for students in the working class inner city areas of North Manchester. Anyone who wants to help can contact Mrs Bower at 736 5768.

GOBBLEDEGOOK

So some help is available to adult illiterates, but complacency is out of place. Our guess is that only 5% of the total are dealt with either by the Literacy Project or evening classes. The rest are left struggling with appalling and frequently unnecessary problems. Take, for instance, the adult illiterate working in a badly paid job because of his handicap. Such a person would normally be eligible for rent and rate rebates, Family Income Supplement etc. But to get them you have to fill in the right forms, which are not noted for their easy-to-read style. Indeed, recent surveys have shown that the most important parts of the leaflet FIS 1, which you have to fill in to claim Family Income Supplement, can only be understood by people with a reading age of 17 years. 'Nuff said.

Freep innocently went along to the Housing Department and the DHSS to ask if there could be any connection between the fact that many people did not claim the benefits to which they are entitled and the fact that quite a lot of people did not understand the forms. The Housing Department surprised us. Yes, they said, they had realised the problem and were trying to do something about it. They used TV and local radio to advertise their services; they briefed social workers, WVS, vicars etc to tell them about people they thought should be getting benefits and were not. The senior official we spoke to was also reasonably confident that the department's efforts meant that most people eligible for rent and rate rebates were getting them. He said that 16,000 of the council's 96,000 tenants were getting rebates.

FIS

Mr Goddard, regional information officer of the DHSS also said that his department was aware of the problem and were doing something about it. But the meagre 50% take-up rate for FIS in the area tends to run counter to his claims. The DHSS also uses TV and local radio to promote itself. Mr Goddard claimed that the low rate of take-up for FIS had more to do with the fact that many pepple didn't bother to claim because they would only benefit by the odd few pence and not because they couldn't understand the forms. He said that efforts were being made to simplify forms and leaflets, but this was no easy job since the rules governing eligibility were themselves very complex.

SIMPLE?

Obviously the problems of adult illiterates in a literate society will always be enormous but it is clear that not enough is being done to simplify and clarify the reading matter of everyday life. Efforts to make forms easier to read and understand must be welcomed, but only as an interim measure. Literacy is a basic right and responsibility for removing the problem should rest with the local authority. In this area far too little is being done.

Where there's talk there's brass

SINCE April 1, members of the city council have been able to claim an attendance allowance at the rate of £10 for more than three hours council duty in a day and £6 for less than three hours. What's more, they have to register their claims in a book which any Manchester elector can inspect.

The right to inspect the register is not widely advertised. A member of the public who went along to the Town Hall the other day encountered such astonishment in the treasurer's department (room 41, by the way) that he decided to pass on his story to Freep. The register is in a leather-bound volume tucked away in a safe- and there are no facilities to look at it in private. Our informant was loaned a desk in the office for a few minutes to flip through it. Perhaps if more people took advantage of their rights, better arrangements would have to be made.

In the meantime, Freep will keep a regular eye on the register. Top of the league is currently Labour councillor for Beswick Ken Eastham who has notched up £736 from April to mid-July. Coun Eastham is deputy chairman of the education committee

Next comes Ken Collis (Labour Crossacres), but lagging rather behind with £492. Third in the list is Hugh Lee (Labour Lightbowne) & chairman of the social services committee with £484. Then Robert Litherland, (Labour, Harpurhey), and chairman of the direct works committee with £476.20 and Alan Roberts, chairman of the housing committee (Labour Crossacres)with £434.

It's no surprise to discover that Tory councillors, who are presumably better off anyway than most Labour members (apart from a few notable exceptions) claimed less. Mrs Joyce Hill, for instance, a Tory representing down-at-heel Didsbury has claimed a mere £344. Harold Tucker only put in for £54 between April 3 and May 22; though his wife Shirley has done better with £172 from April 3 till June 12.

Joe Dean, who's now an MP, managed to claim £210 between April 3 and May 10, which isn't bad going.

Coun Norman Morris, leader of the council labour majority, has only made one claim to date and that was for £20. Coun Bob Rodgers, chairman of the Tory group, hasn't claimed anything. The claims are, of course, subject to income tax.

Tricky Brickie

IDRIS (Brickie) Owen, former Stockport M.P, seems to have undergone a remarkable transformation since his traumatic defeat at the polls in the last General Election. As an M.P., he was heard to grumble that rationing the availability of land for building pushed up house prices. As a candidate for the Stockport North seat, he's now leading a campaign to keep nasty developers out of Reddish Vale (Freep 26). Last week the Brickie led a group of local Young Conservatives to the Vale for a protest march aimed at stopping development of the site & starting a clean-up campaign.

Hello hello, I smell a rat

DRUG FREAKS amongst FREEP readers had better watch out. In their efforts to stamp out this evil practice, members of the Greater Manchester Drug Squad have developed a remarkable new weapon. They appear to have trained some of their officers to smell cannabis secreted in the clothing of members of the public.
At Leigh recently, a man was fined £50 after being stopped & searched by a drug squadder who had smelled cannabis on the man as he walked past in Leigh town centre. Two silver paper wraps of cannabis were found on the man.

Have the squad found a method of persuading their sniffer dogs to lecture officers on the development of olfactory powers?

Fascist flop

IN FREEP 26 we reported the National Front's intention to step up their campaign in the North-West. As we were going to press, the NF announced plans for a march through Manchester on August 24th on the theme of "The Law & Democratic Rights",both of which they have spent a long time flouting.

Happily for Manchester, the NF got cold feet. This could well have had something to do with the size of the campaign which was building up demanding that the NF be banned from marching. Instead, they decided to go off to Leicester, where they had been active in fomenting racial hatred during the strike at Imperial Typewriters.

Their plans for a show of strength there were restricted somewhat by a sudden split in the local NF branch, half of which went off to lend its unsavoury weight to an Enoch Powell Support Group. They were also hampered by the police, who refused to allow them to march through immigrant areas & confined them to a route of a couple of hundred yards.

In the event, the Front only managed to scrape a few hundred marchers up, contrasting with a counter-demonstration, called by Leicester's Inter-Racial Solidarity Committee, which was attended by about 6,500 people. These were from trade unions, political par-ies, immigrant organisations & the Church.

Despite hysterical warnings from the local press, the counter-demo went off entirely peacefully. Now the Front proposes to march in London on Sept.7th with sections of the Ulster Loyalist movement. Recently the Front has been trying hard to establish itself in Northern Ireland; our own Kingsley Read of Blackburn NF accompanied Chairman John Tyndall on a tour of the province a few weeks ago where they met several loyalist politicians. No doubt they also had talks with the NF's only parliamentary candidate in Northern Ireland so far, one Bill Annett, a former member of the extremist underground National Socialist Group.

Manchester-s Anti-Fascist Committee will be organising coaches to go to London on Sept.7th for the counter-demonstration.

WELFARE RIGHTS & WRONGS

You will get enough money to make your resources (income, pensions, savings) equal to your requirements. (The clothing list, the Benefit & pension figures are the SS's idea of what you require). So you have to work out both.

SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS & PENSIONS

a) Adults Personal Allowances

Householders

Married Couples	£13.65
Single Persons	£ 8.40

Boarders, Lodgers etc

Married Couples approx	£ 3.75
Single Persons approx	£ 2.30

Non Householders & Anyone Else

18 & over	£ 8.40
16-17	£ 5.15

b) For Kids

Of Boarders (for clothing)

aged under 5 approx	£0.60
" 5-10 "	£0.75
" 11-12 "	£0.90
" 13-15 "	£1.15
" 16-17 "	£1.35

Of Householders (dependants only)

aged under 5 "	£2.40
" 5-10 "	£2.90
" 11-12 "	£3.55
" 13-15 "	£4.35

c) For Blind People

Couples (one blind)	£14.90
Couples (both blind)	£15.70
Single person, 18+	£ 9.65
Single person, 16-17	£ 6.05

d) Long Term Additions (After 2 years of claiming).
Another £2 per week for householders; £2.70 for blind couples; £-.70 for non householders: 18 & over; £2 for blind single people.
Also, another 25p for people over 80, or couples if either is over 80.

e) Attendance Allowances

Night & Day	£8.00
Night or Day	£5.35

You can claim even if you've got a job or a pension, so long as your income is less than these figures AFTER paying rent. If you've got kids, add on allowances for them to your personal allowance - claim if you have less than this figure.

FAMILY INCOME SUPPLEMENT (If you're in FULL time work).
You get HALF the difference between your total net income & these figures:-

family + 1 kid	£25.00
" + 2 kids	£28.00
" + 3 kids	£31.00

The maximum supplement for a family with 1 or 2 kids is £5.50 & for a family with 3 or more kids is £7.00.

SAVINGS

The SS assume that you're getting income from your savings & add these amounts to your income:

Up to £525	- nil
£325-£350	- 0.05
£350-£375	- 0.10

ie. another 5p for each £25, up to £825. Above that, it's another 12½p for every £25.

RENT SHARING

If you have children living with you & earning money, they have to contribute to the rent. The SS reduces your rent allowance accordingly. The rent is shared equally, except children under 16 who only contribute ½ a share.

CLOTHING

You can't claim for clothing unless you've got less than the quantities listed below and even then, you don't get enough money to buy all of these. You're paid in vouchers for shopping at specially cheap (& nasty) shops.

Men's garments	Overcoat or raincoat § (1)	...
	Jacket (1)	...
	Trousers (2 pairs) ...	...
	Waistcoat or sweater (1)	...
	Socks (3 pairs)	...
	Boots or shoes (2 pairs)	...
	Shirts (2)	...
	Under-vests (2)	...
	Under-pants (2) (if used)	...
	Nightshirts or pyjamas (2) (if used)	
Women's garments	Overcoat or raincoat § (1).	...
	Cardigan or jacket (1) ...	...
	Dresses ‡ (2) ...	...
	Stockings (3 pairs) ...	...
	Shoes (2 pairs)	...
	Petticoats (underslips or underskirts) (2)	
	Vests (2)	...
	Knickers (2)	...
	Brassieres (2) (if used)	...
	Corsets (1) (if used)	...
	Nightdresses (2)	...
Boys' garments	Overcoat or raincoat § (1)	...
	Jacket or windcheater (1)	...
	Trousers (2 pairs) ...	...
	Sweater (1)	...
	Socks or stockings (3 pairs)	...
	Boots or shoes (2 pairs)	...
	Shirts (2)	...
	Under-vests (2)	...
	Under-pants (2) (if used)	...
	Nightshirts or pyjamas (2)	...
Girls' garments	Overcoat or raincoat § (1)	...
	Cardigan or jacket (1) ...	...
	Dresses ‡ (2)	...
	Socks or stockings (3 pairs)	...
	Shoes (2 pairs)	...
	Petticoats (underslips or underskirts) (2)	
	Vests (2)	...
	Knickers (2)	...
	Corsets (1) (if used)	...
	Nightdresses (2)	...
Bedding	Blankets † (3 per bed in use)	...
	Sheets (3 per bed in use)	...
	Pillow (1 per person) ...	...
	Pillow cases (2 per person)	...

ALLOWABLE INCOMES & PENSIONS ETC

a) For assessing how much money you've got, the following are taken into account: family allowances, supplements, N.I. benefits, industrial injury benefit & payments for maintenance of kids, a wife or ex-wife.

b) The following items are not counted as part of you're income: your house, furniture & personal possessions, business assets required for your business, maternity & death grants, occasional gifts in cash & kind & voluntary payments for purposes not covered by supplementary benefits. Some of these are discounted at the discretion of the SS.

c) Then there is a long list of items which are partly ignored, such as: the 1st £2 per wk of the claimants net earnings unless he's required to register for work in which case only the 1st £1 is ignored; £1 per wk of pensions & annuities other than NI & war pensions; £1 per wk profit from subletting; & a variety of other things.

HOW TO CLAIM

You may have enough time to apply postally, in which case get the right form from the Post Office, fill it in, send it & wait. For most people though, going to the SS office is necessary. If you are required to, go to the Employment Exchange (with N.I. card if possible), tell the enquiry clerk you want to claim supplementary allowances.

Sign on for the work you do (remember that you may be refused benefit if you pick a job that's hard to get), & get a BI form. If you're disabled or sick, take a doctor's certificate saying so.

Phone up the Dept. of Health & Social Security office for the area you live in & make an appointment to claim benefit.

Take the following with you: BI; rent book/mortgage book (or letter from the person you're staying with); pay slips for you/wife & children for the last 2 pay days, if you stopped work recently; family allowance books; statement of income tax paid.
You will be interviewed & asked questions about your income & your domestic life.

AT THE S.S.

The offices are uncomfortable, you wait a long time & if you miss an appointment, you might have to come another day. So try to get someone to look after your kids for you, don't get depressed, & go with a friend. You are allowed to see the clerk with anyone you choose.

At the interview, think before you answer. If you don't agree with or understand what's said, tell the clerk to explain in detail, or to tell you what part of the Act stops you receiving benefit etc. Take your time, don't be fooled if you happen to get a pleasant reception & ask how much benefit you'll receive & why. Tell the clerk you'll complain to the supervisor or appeal if you are insulted or cheated.

Payment is sent by GIRO to your home the next day. You CAN get cash over the counter if it is really urgent - but you really have to fight. People with no fixed address usually only get vouchers for hostels & soup kitchens.
REMEMBER: the SS has "powers of discretion". If they don't believe your story, or if they interpret the law differently to you, then they're allowed to refuse your claim. When things get sticky, you can't complain. You have to beg or create enough trouble to make it worth their while to cough up.

You will be visited at your address later. You don't have to hang around waiting for it - they ought to give ample warning by post.

MORE

These three parts will, we hope, have helped people with straightforward claims. If yours isn't, later parts, appearing as soon as possible, will deal with appealing, strikers, co-habitation, the wage stop & the Claimants Union.

For help, see the Advice Centres on Page 13.

ADS & INFO

SQUAT IN

THE GREAT SQUAT IN is due to be held in Nottingham from 6-9 Sept. The purpose is to compile an interesting pamphlet on squatting. Stories about other people's experiences required. Either post your info to Dancing Houses Squatters Group, 42 Hampden St, Nottingham or join the squat there. Kids welcome but warn them first.Take a sleeping bag.

WHATWORK

WHATWORK is an information & contact centre covering Manchester and the North West. It concentrates on useful and interesting work that doesn't exploit people like helping people in residential communities, democratic workshops or factories, creative work with kids, community action projects, voluntary work projects etc. Some of the jobs are full-time, some unpaid, some give subsistence, a few pay more. Come & see us at 178 Oxford Road, Mchr14 or ring 273 1189
Tues & Thurs: 12-2; 5.30-7.30
Wednesday: 2-4.

INQUIRIES

PUBLIC INQUIRIES GUIDE is a 40 page booklet containing information about public inquiries, how they're run & how you can present a case before them. Includes advice on how & when to use solicitors & how to find info. you may need for the case. Published by & available from Shelter Community Action Team, 159 Cleveland St. London W1P 5PG. Price 15p to action groups, 50p to professionals,local authorities & inspectors.

SOCIAL SSHAC

SOCIAL in aid of Stockport Shelter Housing Action Committee (SSHAC) on 20th Sept. from 8-12p.m. Price 40p incl buffet. To be held in M.R.I. Great Hall, Sparshott House-the nurses home. Tickets available from the Royal Mortar, Higher Hillgate, Stockport.

MENTAL PATIENTS

MANCHESTER MENTAL PATIENTS Union now meets regularly at 178 Oxford Road, Manchester 2 Every Saturday at 3pm.

Further info from Mchr MPU, c/o Estelle Beninson, 2 York Avenue, Prestwich.

PUBLIC RALLY

BRITAIN'S CRISIS DEMANDS SOCIALIST POLICIES

Speakers:
JIMMY REID
LEN BRINDLE
TERRY KEENAN

Sunday, 8th Sept. at 2p.m. Lesser Free Trade Hall on Peter Street Manchester. Admission 10p.OAPs Free. Organised by the Communist Party.

ADVICE

BRADFORD: Rylance Street Area Action Group (esp clearance advice): 223 0181

CHEETHAM HILL: Poly Welfare Rights Stall: Tues and Thurs 5.30-7.30pm Trinity Church Hall, Greenhill Road.

MOSS SIDE: Housing Advice: Moss Side Pastoral Centre, Great Western Street. Mon and Wed 5.30-7pm 226 3886

COLLYHURST/HARPURHEY: Neighbourhood Info Centre. Old Day Nursery, Churnet St,M10 7UX. Tel.205 6292.

STOCKPORT: Advice Centre. The Tusky Dog,25 Stockport Rd,Gorsey Bank, Stockport. Tel.477 2301.

SALFORD: Rights Stall in market Sat.
Also Community House run by Docks Actions Group. Contact Billy Gill 8 Broadway, Salford 5.

PARTINGTON People's Rights Office Daily 775 6130

SALFORD: Underdog at 83 Camp Street, Salford 7
Tues, Thurs, Fri 12 - 4pm gives advice on SS benefits, supplementary etc.

WOMEN

WOMEN & EDUCATION. Resources day at Teachers' Centre, Barlow Moor Rd, will be held on Sat.28th Sept from 10a.m. to 6p.m. There will be a display of non-sexist teaching materials, workshops, films etc.Creche available. For application forms contact Judith Summers, Padgate College of Education.

OPEN MEETING of Stockport Womens Lib.Groups on 16th Sept., 8p.m. at 14 Mersey Rd, Stockport.

EVENING CLASS on 'Women in Society' on 18th Sept. at Peel Moat School,Stockport. Enrolment 9-13 Sept.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS GROUP & Women's Aid Group both c/o Women's Liberation Centre. 218 Upper Brook St, Manchester 13.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION INFORMATION Service. Mon.-Thurs. 7.30-9p.m 218 Upper Brook St,M/C.273 2287

GINGERBREAD

GINGERBREAD now meets on the first Monday & 3rd Tuesday each month 8p.m, at M/C Univ. Students Union.

HOMELESS

HOMELESS IN MANCHESTER need volunteers for their night shelter for single homeless men in the old St Aloysius School in Ardwick. Also needed are three treasurers for HIM, the shelter and the mobile surgery. Contact 19 Duncan Road, Mchr 13.

LEGAL

RUSHOLME Legal Advice Centre St James Parish Hall, Danes Road, Rusholme. Tuesdays 6.30-9.30pm

UNIVERSITY Legal Advice Centre 178 Waterloo Place (Oxford Road) Manchester 13 273 4575
Mon-Fri 1-3pm.
Tues & Thursd 5.30-7.30

NELLO JAMES Centre, 136 Withington Road Mchr 16. 226 4164. Evening Legal Advice.

HELP

TAKE DEVELOPMENT LAND into Public Ownership. Anyone interested in helping to organise national campaign on this issue ring Chris 733 8813 or contact BRAG A45 Du Cane Crt,Balham High Rd SW17.

DON'T FORGET

We have moved our address to 8A Raynham Avenue, Manchester 20. 061-434 1591. For all correspondence, requests for display rates and back issues at 5p each (not 1-3).

books — pamphlets — magazines

science fiction — claimants — mysticism — education

grass roots
community bookservice

Titles this month include:-

Squatters Handbook 5p
The Lump - An Heretical analysis (Solidarity)
The Hazards of Work - Kinnersly 90p. 15p
Workers Against the Monolith - Birchall £1.50
Unions and Wildcats - (Workers Voice) 5p.
Up Against the Law - 15p.
Fascism & Big Business - D Guerin £1.40
White House Scripts (i) £1.25
CIS Anti Reports
Floodgates of Anarchy - Christie & Meltzer 35p
Blood in the Streets - (PD & Lotta Continua) 40p
Fighting in the Streets - (Lotta Continua) 15p
The Shrewsbury Three - Jim Arnison 45p
Marxism & Feminism - Charnie Chettel (i) 50p
The Myth of Motherhood - Comer 35p
Press Under Apartheid - Alex Hepple 25p
Beyond Theology - Alan W Watts (i) £1.00
Radical Therapist - 60p
Radical Therapist 2 (i) 85p (i) = import
Uncarreers 74 20p
Art & Revolution-Berger (Hardback) 75p
334 - Disch, Beyond the Horizon - Heinlein, The Iron Dream - Spinrad, Earthman Come Home - Blish and most new UK SF titles.
- also papers and periodicals

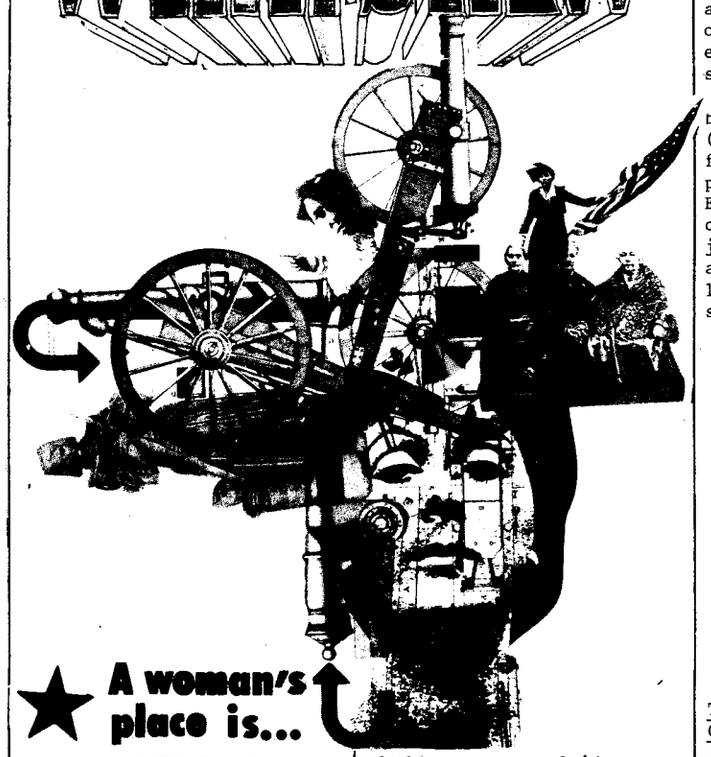
Come & see us sometime.

178 oxford rd

politics — underground — tenants — poetry — women

tel. manchester 273 2180

GENUINE WHAT'S NEW

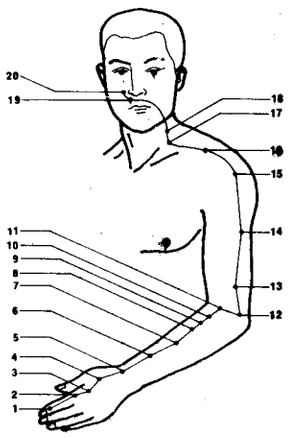


Oink oink

WHO NEEDS MEN by Edmund Cooper. Coronet. 35p

This story of a Britain of the future dominated by women, although written with pace & style, is firmly cast in the traditional mould. Rura Alexandra has recently graduated into the ranks of the Exterminators, whose task is to wipe out the last few thousand men who roam the country in guerilla bands. Out on a mission, she's ambushed by the male "pigs", brutally raped & subjugated to the rebel leader as his mistress. The stereotyped male fantasy then unfolds. Intrigued by the new found delights, our heroine turns against her background, & impregnated by her guerilla chief joins him in a bold but futile stand against her sister Exterminators.

HARRY BAUMGARTL



A queue for puncture

ACUPUNCTURE: A LAYMANS VIEW by Lucille Leong. Signet.60p.

A short, readable account of the Chinese art of healing. Writing in a sympathetic but balanced vein, the author sees acupuncture as having a valuable part to play in western medicine but warns against its use by inexperienced practitioners. Acupuncture is not a magic art & in fact some of the risks have a remarkable similarity to some of the hazards of drug based therapy: a recent Russian paper was entitled "A rare case of carcinoma of the skin arising after acupuncture". Nevertheless its successes, although not currently explicable within the existing scientific paradigm, are well established.

HARRY BAUMGARTL

A woman's place is...

WEDLOCKED WOMEN: Lee Comer Feminist Books £1.

The first book to be produced by a new feminist publishing collective, this is a straightforward account of the position women find themselves in as housewives and mothers in our society today. This is obviously an important area to describe because it concerns almost all women. (Even when they work outside the home, they are usually wives and mothers as well). The writing is clear, its examples being taken from magasines and popular writing rather than from 'literature'

But with all these things in its favour it is nevertheless a work of sociology and is therefore destined to appeal to a fairly limited readership. Not until the housewives quoted by Lee Comer start talking in the pages of Woman and Woman's Own will the Women's Liberation Movement be able to feel that the ideas it has developed over the last 5 years are beginning to loosen the grip of the conventional ideas about motherhood and womanhood pumped out weekly by these and the many other magazines like them.

CYNTHIA DREW

WOMAN AS REVOLUTIONARY ed. by Frederick C.Giffin. Mentor-60p.

Despite being able to argue with whether all the women included in this anthology were revolutionaries or even progressives, the collection of their writings covers from Christine de Pisan (1363-1431) through Saint Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) up to some far more interesting 19th & 20th century women. The inclusion of Joan Baez & exclusion of Angela Davis, gives some indication of the basis of the collection. But it includes some interesting material from some less advertised women.

SUSAN KIRSCH

Sweaty fog

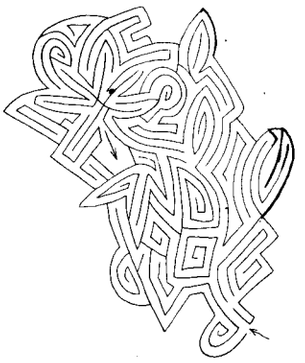
JULIA AND THE BAZOOKA by Anna Kavan. Panther. 40p.

A collection of short pieces by Kavan which captures the mood of isolation & fear characteristic of her writing. Addicted to heroin until the ripe old age of 67, Anna Kavan uses some images with great effect. These range from the cloying proximity of blood & sweaty bodies to the cold barriers of metal & fog seperating a car driver from the staring faces of the outside world.

HARRY BAUMGARTL

Wotta lotta fun

Fifth Knight Book of Puzzles compiled by Falcon Travis at 30p is a good collection of enjoyable puzzles of every conceivable type and suitable for any age from 13 upwards. Mazes for Fun by Vladimir Koziakin (piccolo 20p) is also a fairly exacting and hard pasttime, but a lot of fun. Each maze is in the shape of something, rather than just a collection of lines and each has a rated time limit which gives you something to work against.



The Cow who Fell into the Canalby Phyllis Krasilovsky (Picture Puffin 25p) is a story meant to be read by young children - full of bright pictures with interesting things to point out. It's a simple tale about a Dutch cow's desire to see the city. The Cat who Thought he was a Tiger by Polly Cameron (Picture Puffin 25P) is another story to read aloud. An amusing tale about how a kitten tries hard to be a tiger then discovers he is really a cat. James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl (Puffin 25p) is a fantasy about a lonely boy who is given some magic green crystals which make a dead peach tree bear a giant fruit. He sets off on an adventure with a collection of giant insects which takes him to the United States. Recommended age: 8 and over

Lotta by Astrid Lindgren (Young Puffin 20p) is a slightly turgid descriptive narrative about three children with the archetypal naughtly little sister - not the best set of stories in the world. Recommended age 4-6.

SUSAN KIRSCH

Space race ace

DIMENSION X Ed. by Damon Knight. Coronet 35p.

Two thirds of this book are occupied by Heinlein's brilliant novella "The Man Who Sold The Moon". Written in 1949, the story conceives of the first space-shot as the work & inspiration of an American capitalist entrepreneur. Infused with the riotous individualism characteristic of much of his work, Heinlein nevertheless conveys the enterprise with such organisation & power that the story retains its quality in spite of the historical verdict on the necessity for State financed space-race technology.

HARRY BAUMGARTL

Research

STREET RESEARCH 4 15p

The fourth edition of Street Research, available from 86 Railton Road, Brixton, SE24 (Tel:01 274 7448), is devoted to property speculators & the building industry. Both these subjects are close to the heart of M/C. Half of the magazine is devoted to an analysis of the property lobby & is packed with information about the National Association of Property Owners, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors & other nefarious bodies.
A pull-out section in the middle, designed for building workers but handy for anyone to have around, gives ideas about how to find out information about building firms: the profits, contracts, owners, relations with the local authority & safety regulations. It has lists of reference books, useful media addresses, how to contact information services, & some material about social security & picketing.
Well worth 15p if you're interested in the faceless rippers-out of city centres.

Also received

THE SAME TO YOU DOUBLED by Robert Sheckley. Pan. 35p.

An entertaining collection of short stories mainly written in a light vein.

TAOIST TALES ed. by Raymond Van Over. Mentor. 70p.

A comprehensive selection of stories, parables & poems in the Chinese tradition established by Lao Tzu in 604 B.C.

HAIGH AND HOCHLAND
BOOKS

BOOKS FOR PEOPLE WHO STUDY

HAIGH and HOCHLAND LTD
International University Booksellers
Precinct Centre, Oxford Road,
Manchester M13 9QA

Ring 061-273 4156

MORE INFO

TRANSPORT

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT will try to help squatters & others with furniture & transport if genuinely needed. We have to make a comparatively small charge cos contrary to public opinion we're not a business & are nearly broke.
Contact : 29 Poland Street, Ancoats Mchr4 205 1473
Or: 25 Stockport Road, Stockport. 477 2301

CHILD POVERTY

CHILD POVERTY Action Group: Help wanted with welfare rights stall in Stretford. Sec: Peter Hildrew, 13 Grange Ave., Levenshulme.

DEFENCE

SELF DEFENCE & JUDO for women course is due to start on 19th Sept. Last year, the course was very successful. Enrolment is on 9th, 10th & 12th Sept, at Whalley Range Upper School, Wilbraham Rd, 7-9pm, or send your enrolment before 9th Sept. to Jill Walker. Cost is £3.05 with special rates for people on SS or under 18. Meetings will be on Thursdays at Whalley Range Lower School.

PRESS

ALTERNATIVE PRESS DIGEST No. 2 from 10 Avenue Mansions, Finchley Rd,NW3. Profits will go to help Namibia.

AMERICAN PIE
Enjoy freshly baked PIZZA
At the most original restaurant in Town
Good music Friendly service - and Reasonable Prices
3 Barton Sq
(opp Kendals) 834 8546

There's always something different at the University Theatre.

The new season starts on 17 September – and it's a season you shouldn't miss!

The first two productions are by Contact Theatre – the University Theatre's professional company. Ann Jellicoe's comedy **The Knack** runs from 17 September to 5 October (Tuesday to Saturday at 7.30) followed by a Samuel Beckett double-bill: **Happy Days** and **Krapp's Last Tape**. (9 to 26 October, Tuesday to Saturday at 7.30).

After this, the Stage Society present a hilarious Feydeau farce, **A-Hunting We Will Go** (12 to 16 November at 7.30).

Tickets 30p 45p 60p 75p, concessions available; early booking advised!

University Theatre
Devas Street, Manchester M15 6JA
Box office 061-273 5696

Papers
Periodicals
Paperbacks
Ice Cream
Cigs
Chemist's Sundries
Gifts
Bacey
GORDON'S
PRECINCT CENTRE
OXFORD ROAD
GORDON'S
SUPER SAVERS IN OUR
RECORD BAR
TOP LPS
£1.78
£1.13
GORDON'S
Parker pens
Greeting Cards
Stationery
Oxford Pads
Posters